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IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the abstract as follows:

A method and apparatus for accelerating an object-oriented programming language are provided at a hardware gate level. In a Java-compliant embodiment, a Java Application framework is implemented in hardware. The Java.AWT, Java.NET, and Java.IO application frameworks are supported in the preferred embodiment of the invention. ~~Application framework classes are stored as libraries in a shared memory.~~ Instances and methods of supported application framework classes that are executed by a Java program are offloaded to a hardware object management system. A software stub is provided as an interface between the hardware object management system and the central processing unit. ~~Central processing unit processing of non-supported application framework instructions is continued during hardware accelerator execution of hardware object management system requests.~~